

# Pérez

## A F1 driver's dream

The story of Sergio "Checo" Perez, the best mexican pilot of Formula 1 of this century, its about scramble, risks and competition.

This is a illustrated book about his trajectory to achieve a goal, a dream and how he never stop to go after it, since his childhood until now.

In order to inspire us with his achievements and encourage us to be better.

**Pablo Ricardo Silva Guadarrama**





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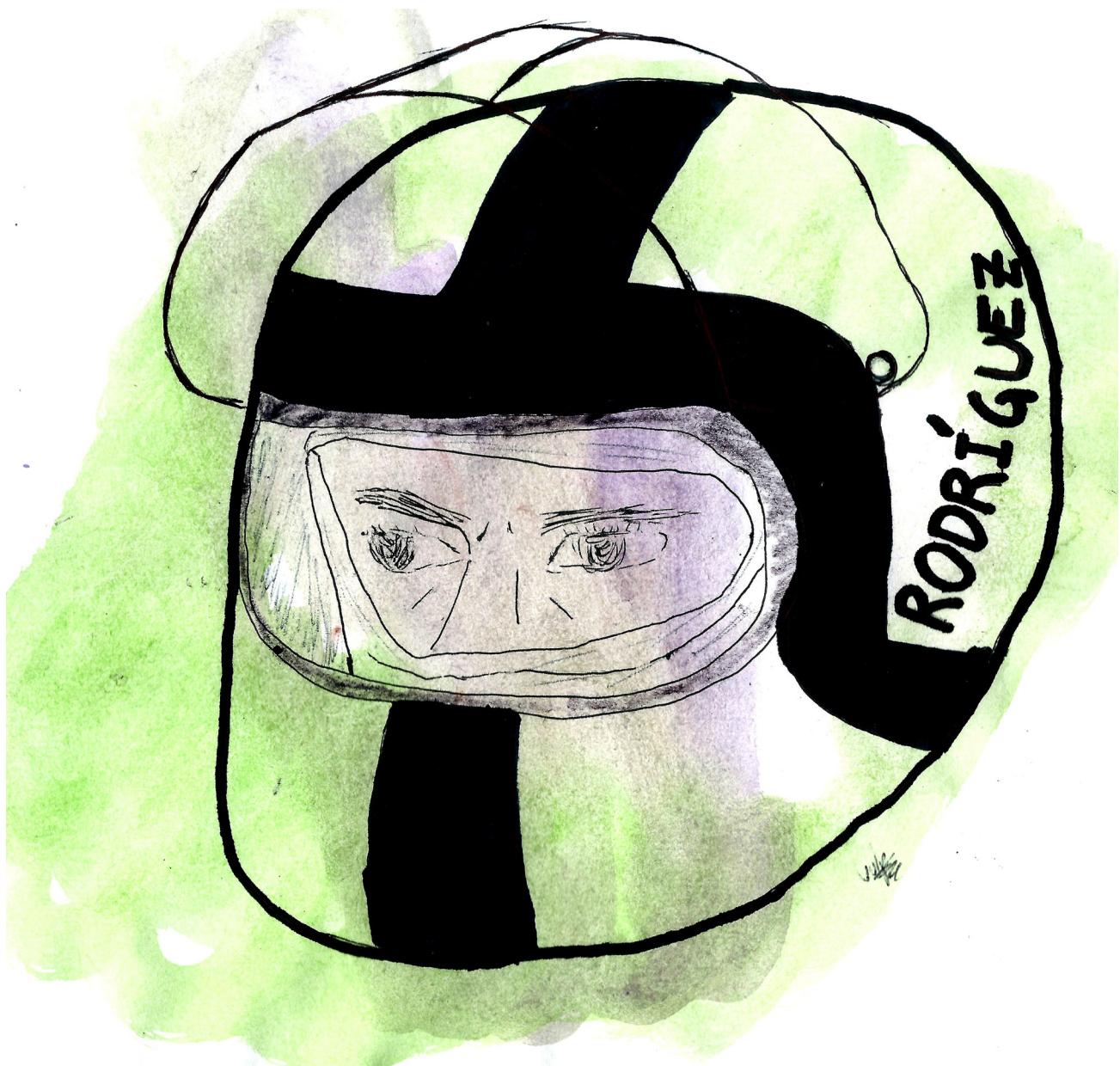
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to my father



# Prologue

What is a dream? A whish? A desire? Is that what you live for... And what is living? You will know it when you see somebody waking up early and sleeping late, sufferingg deficencies, fighting everyday with himself to improve, and that you would die no doubt, just whit a target in mind: do what you love.

This story is about one of those dreamers, real warriors offered from beetween many countries with the purpose to inspire all the humanity with the quality and excelence in their actions. For our country, Mexico, in motorsport there are two of them: the firstone, the big mexican pilot Pedro Rodríguez de la Vega. He race against the best pilots of his time, who lived to die doing it. He bequeathed two victories to us in Formula 1.

50 years passed until another mexican pilot could repeat such a feat; our second big mexican pilot is Sergio Michel Pérez Mendoza, nicknamed "Checo".



# The driver

Guadalajara, in the state of Jalisco, had a son, who saw its blue sky, hot floor, noisy city, flooded in July and quiet on Sundays. This boy, wanting to play soccer, came home quite misaligned and dirty, but with a huge smile, because he had tired his body playing.

He was the youngest of the family and -as is often the case- his brothers teased him all the time. This boy's temperament was not submissive and every joke was unforgettable and unforgivable. Ever wanted to leave home, because one of his brothers told him that he was adopted. But everything was solved with a spanking of their parents to each one.

His father loved racing and motorsport was his life. His children inherited an interest and passion for kart racing since they were able to walk. You could say they formed a team. And as in any team, the first great rivalry is very close. His brother's



name is Antonio, who was his partner and rival. Some races were won by “Checo” and others by his brother. They competed with many children of all ages, in the end, they always won. And, when there was no one else to beat, they beat youth and adults in other categories.

Little by little the brothers separated. They were fighting for a place, a name in auto racing.

Many times they hated them for not having strong sponsors and only having talent. They had great precariousness in their equipment such as not having good tires. This situation gave “Checo” the ability to save the tires and, by making fewer changes, win. This caused many envies and cost them many victories.

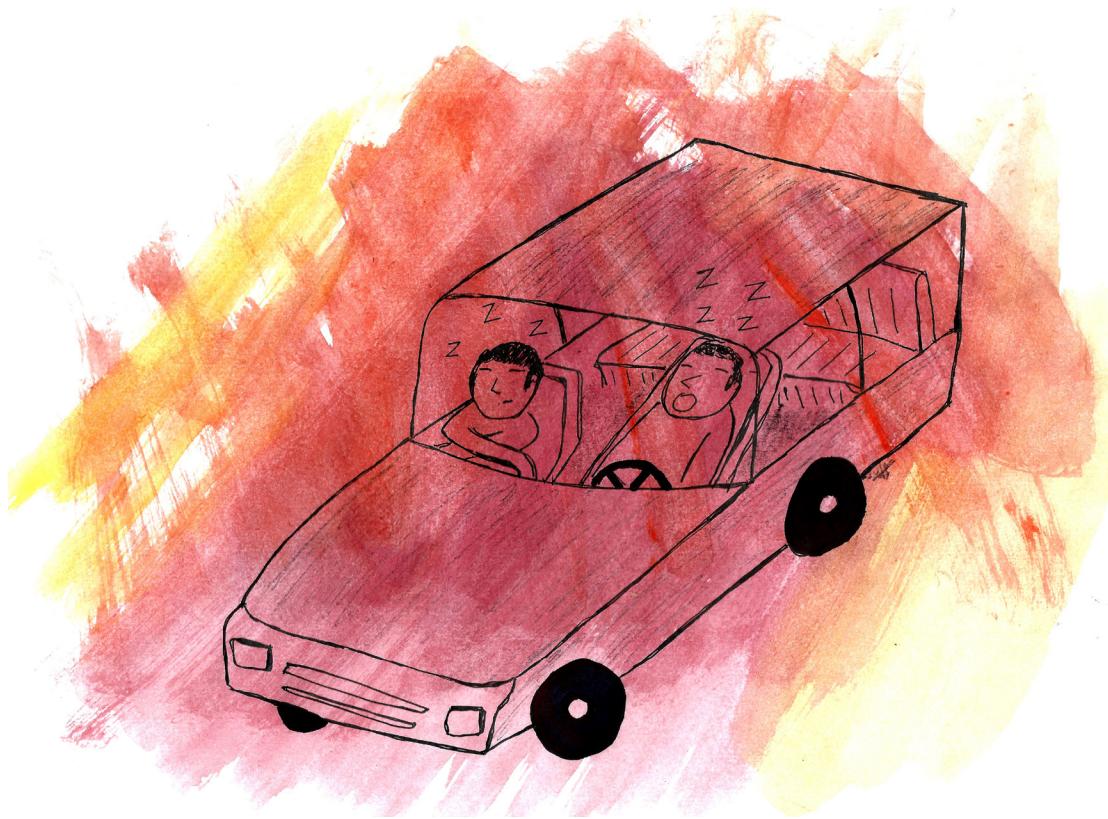
On different occasions they went to appeal the decisions of the judges, but it seemed impossible to



compete with the bureaucracy of Mexican racing. They chose to fight corruption by getting a stronger sponsor like the richest man in Mexico, Carlos Slim. He supported Sergio and took him to Europe to compete for his patronage. To achieve this, they had to compete and demonstrate talent. The opportunity was there, and with the same shortcomings they won. They slept in a car - because there was not enough money - and Sergio only had to drive.

Talent generates resistance. We must fight against all odds and stay away from groups that





sectorize victories or eliminate our opportunities. Understand that it is not our fault when someone steps on us to see us fall. Our duty is to understand it and seek solutions. Not aligning ourselves with the system, but improving it.



# **Europe**

**What is living alone? It is to stay alive by your effort and your abilities. Do you have those abilities?**

After showing his talent, “Checo” had to make the decision to live alone in Europe to compete in a good team. Sounds like a dream, right? Living alone, but do you know what he sacrificed? Well ... I lived in a little German town and that means ... it means “cold”, and it was not only the European cold that freezes your bones and you never feel warm, but of cold people: Mexico has very warm people, they hug you without knowing you, a friend after a few hours of talking with someone; Laughter and communication is part of the Mexican life itself, as well as joy in conversation and happiness have a very important value. “Checo” was only 14 years old when he had to face the Germans; always per-

fectionists, with a distant treatment, reluctant to any stranger, no friendly conversation, in fact no conversation, because "Checo" did not know German either. They were part of his team, but they had no more relationship than that. He finished competing and went home alone. And it was not a luxurious house, he lived in a workshop, and later in a kitchen.





All these factors seem like great obstacles and they were, however, in those years many victories were obtained. He competed in various championships as a pilot for the Telmex team, and achieved podiums, which means that in some races he manages to be among the three fastest of the race, for this reason, together with his youth, he was constantly named the rookie of the year.

At that moment before his imminent membership in European motorsports, a teacher appeared, Adrián Fernández, another great Mexican dri-

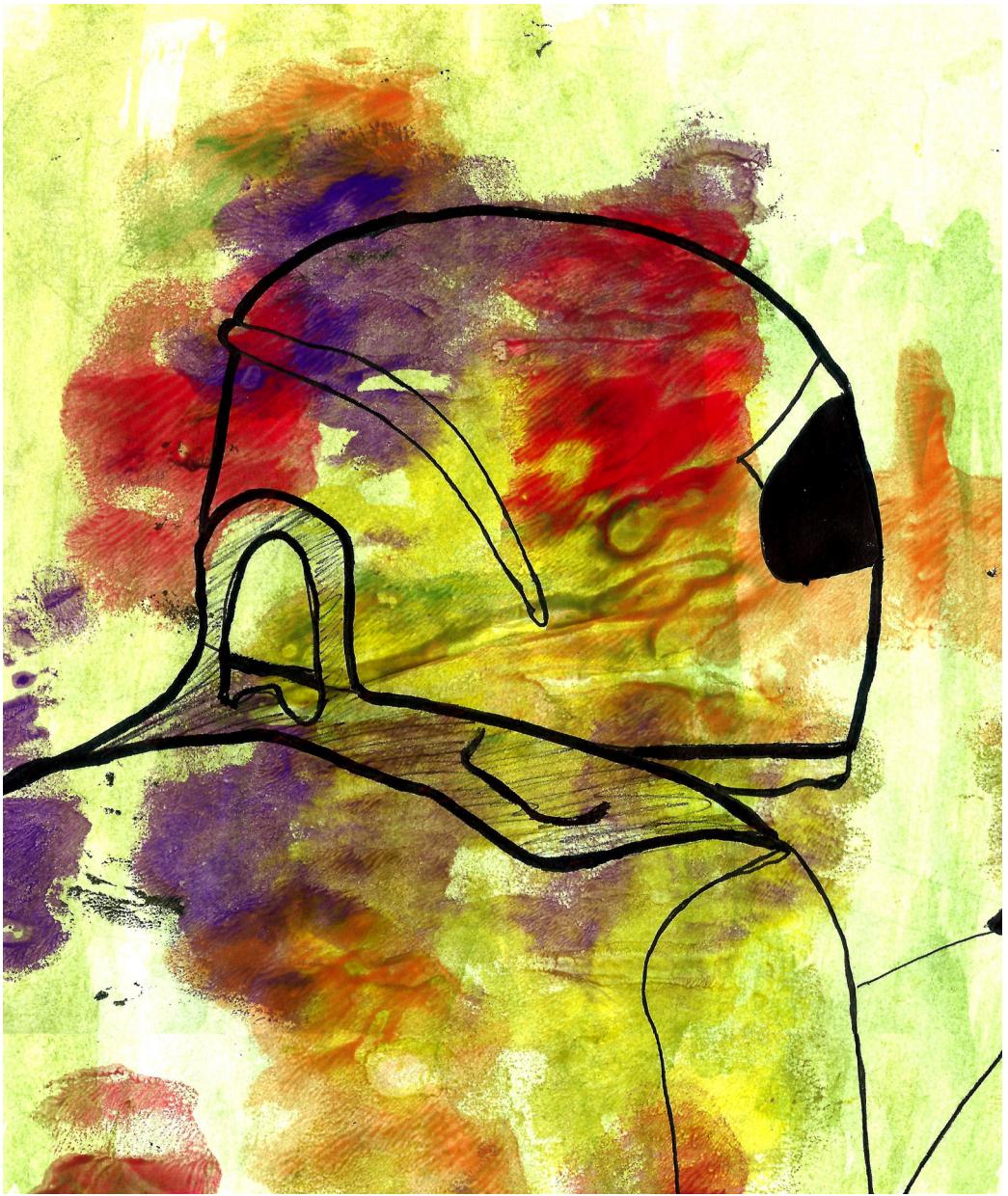
ver, who supported Sergio by giving him advice on how to behave in this difficult situation; the kind of balanced diet he should have, dealing with the media, and all those unwritten rules of the racing sport. Although it was not a constant treatment, it was a support in those difficult and lonely moments for “Checo”.

Again, what sustained “Checo” for so long in those years was his talent. Language and idiosyn-





crasy don't matter in racing, just passing and being the fastest. Like that time, when in the European rain, which makes the floor slippery and freezes hands, all the drivers changed their tires and slowed down, but "Checo" was three places from first place, he did not pit and continued, even knowing it was risky. He passed his rivals perhaps faster and with better equipment and took advantage of his fear to arrive first.



# F1

After seven years in competition, the Formula 1 teams were drawn in by his talent. The “Checo”’s victories forged a more mature driver. There was an opportunity to be in the top flight and he would not let it go. There were many talks in between to get to the place where every pilot would like to be: belonging to the best pilots.

There are 7,730 million people, only some of them can have the “super license” to drive one of these cars, and only twenty people in the world do. For a reason it is the “great circus”; the pilots arrive at speeds of 378 km / h and the show depends on the high risk, the power of each car, the skill and reflexes of each one, likewise the level of demand is the highest. To realize this, it is enough to look at the steering wheel of the car and its complex 17 functions to realize the concentration when driving a Formula 1.



Ten teams fight to win the championship with the possibility of two drivers each. There is always a first driver, who has a better car, and a better support team. Each team is different, it is not only the driver against 18 others. It is the fight of teams of at least forty people for each driver, and a maximum of 500 people - when you are Ferrari and money is left over. Each contribution, no matter how small, can mean gaining a ".1" second advantage against the pilot of a superior position, for this reason, from the design of the engineers to the production in the Numerical

Control machines, the assembly in the workshop , the speed of the team when removing and putting tires, the radio assistance and direct communication with the rider must be perfect.

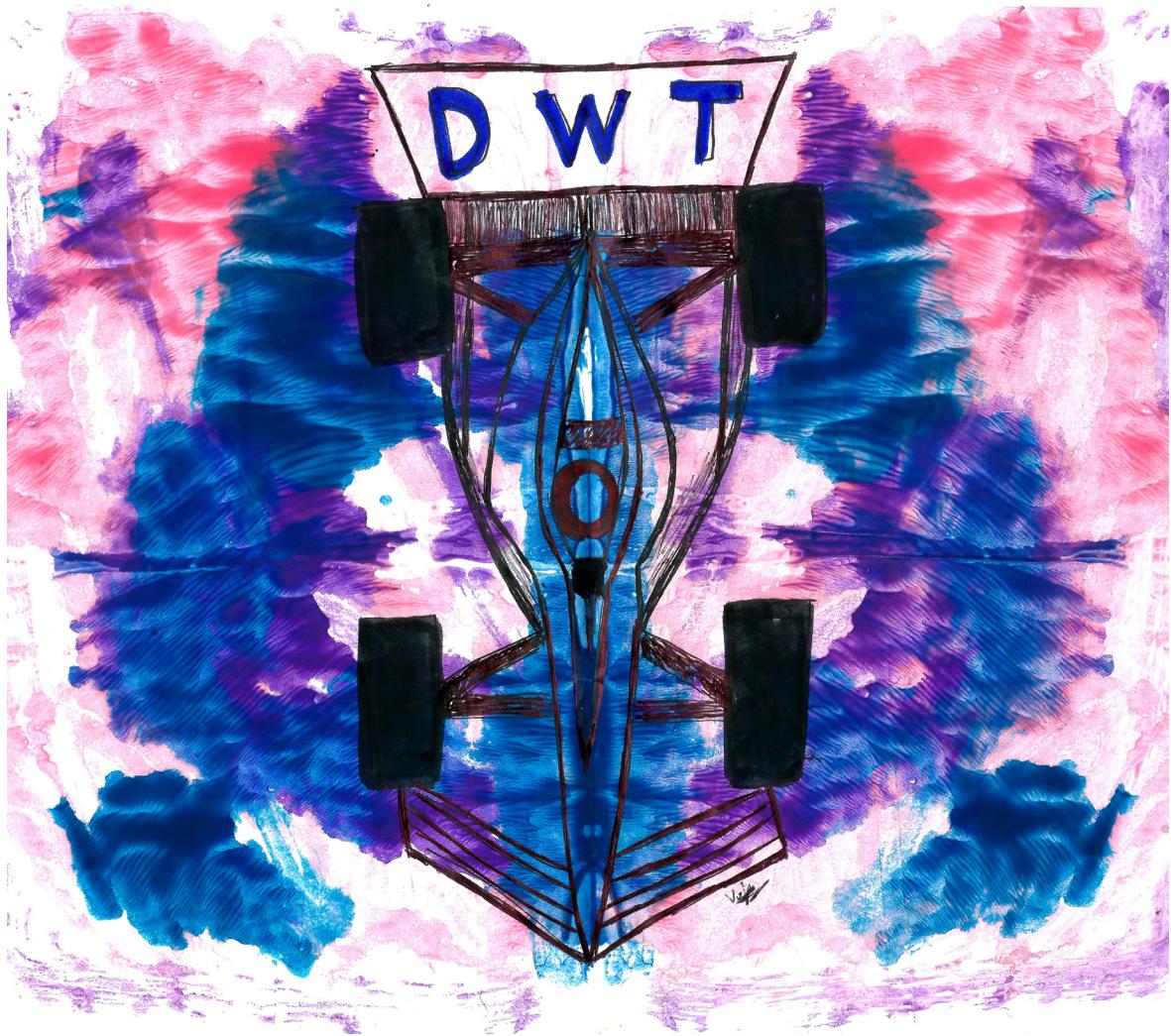
Sergio Pérez arrived at formula 1 with a team that was not competing for the first places, and with the position of second driver. The limitations of his car did not make podiums, but Pérez, in his first year in Formula 1, did. It was a long and painful apprenticeship; At the Monaco Grand Prix - a competition recognized by the need of pilots to take risks if they want to win - he required him to



go down a narrow track, where the engine power does not make as much difference, as the reflexes of each pilot do, it is a track loved and hated because the flaws and virtues stand out at each lap, at each braking and passing.

In this way, Sergio Pérez, wanting to “balance the scale” and make these conditions an opportunity, took a risk in qualifying, when at turn 10 and 11, when exiting the tunnel, he lost control of his formula and ends up crashing. Also, he loses his position, due to medical complications, for the next race in Canada. But again this impediment was not enough to give results in the following tests.

The McLaren team moved with the hope of having a better car and winning races, however, the team was not at “one hundred percent” and they were their worst results, but the opportunity would come with more than this disappointment, when he takes a leap to another Force India team.





# **Victory**

7 years passed with the same squad; changed its name to Racing Point, but the team and quality of the car remained, and it could only improve in constancy: Sergio traveled the world and competed with the best, sometimes he had podiums and at other times, he was close to winning the race. Many drivers arrive in this category without winning a single race or without reaching a podium, or remaining an entire championship.

In this way, Shakir's career in 2020 - in the last year with Racing Point - was the result of those years of work. During that championship, Sergio was going to be left without a team, he had had covid-19 when his son was recently born, and he had no proposals to stay in formula 1, while he was relegated to being second driver, since the teammate and driver of team was the son of the team owner.

He had nothing to lose that day; He took his helmet, spoke to the engineers, wished the best for himself and his team, climbed up on his formula and came out in fifth position At the forefront, Pérez was winning the position over Red Bull's Vers-tappen, but had a hit from Charles Leclerc with his Ferrari, which forced him to take his car to the pits and go to the eighteenth position and lose his job in qualifying. Meanwhile, in the race, George Russell, the young man who replaced Lewis Ha-milton with Mercedes, made the fastest laps from





his first position, and his eyes were on him, having no rival, also Valteri Bottas, his partner, to take care of him its place.

Steadily and without anyone noticing, Sergio advanced with safe overtaking his teammates; by lap 20, he was already in tenth position. After that moment, the passes are more spectacular like Albon in his Red Bull by taking better advantage of the turn of the curve in the shape of "S". Climbing the following positions are difficult, but once again Pérez's characteristic about tire care leads him to win the position to Carlos Sainz's McLaren. The

next position is won by his partner when in a sample of youth he worries about not letting his partner pass and is distracted, then Pérez, before the space in the curve, passes freely. And he repeats a technique similar to the Renault of Ocon, his old and young ex-partner. Already in this position he is in third place. And again, as if fate gave his qualities the value of virtue, thanks to the fact that he did not change tires, like the two drivers who passed him, he reached first place on lap 69. Sergio Pérez defended his position with a George Russell desperate to get back what “Checo” had stolen from him. Lap 73 had Russell behind him. Again an error with the tires sent Russell to the pits, so there was nothing to do. Sergio was unattainable and won his first race in Formula 1. All difficulties were overcome by his perseverance and perseverance; it was a career where experience won out over the ambition of youth.





# Epilogue

This story, like the Ingenious Don Quixote de la Mancha, will have his second part. At this moment Sergio Pérez is in the Red Bull Racing team. There is no certainty of the future, but his path and victories are already given. It owes nothing to anyone and, on the contrary, it has contributions and associations that help Mexican children such as the “Checo” Pérez Foundation, which are described as: “Strengthening vulnerable groups, specifically minors, through the design of support and intervention programs and projects that enable their integral development within their community and thus contribute to social well-being”.

And its future objectives are: “To be the leading altruistic Foundation in Mexico capable of establishing inter-institutional relationships for the management of projects and support programs that provide opportunities for minors so that they can realize their dreams and have a better future”.

The life of Sergio Pérez is an example of how sports and the pursuit of a dream can lead other people to realize their dreams. This example should inspire our actions, have a life where we are better in all aspects of life, and give back to people and society with well-planned actions. In each one is the future all.

